

NOTES for QUERIES

The Folklore and Mythology Group at UCLA recently released their latest booklet on their interdisciplinary M.A. Financial assistance will be available to students applying to this program, who can write to: the Chairman, Folklore and Mythology Group, Bunche Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024.

The I.U. Folklore Institute has initiated, under the direction of Warren Roberts, a photographic survey of the material culture of southern Indiana. Dr. Roberts and his assistants, Rayna Green and Susan Samuel, see the focus of this project as determining the everyday habits of the early settlers of the region. In this regard, they are attempting to locate early craft artifacts, tools, "from adzes to axes," and the like, in order to photograph these for reference. Interviews with persons still engaged in traditional crafts will be conducted. Contact with potential informants has been chiefly through the local newspapers and response has been gratifying. Over fifty people have already contacted the researchers and work proceeds slowly. One of Dr. Roberts' assistants comments: "With some money, a lot of film, some gasoline, five more assistants and three more years, we might manage a decent survey of six counties. Another 'George Washington' bed will show up any day."

For those of our subscribers who read only the Notes for Queries: your attention is called to the announcement of the FOLKLORE FORUM Prize Competition, p. 67.

The Junior Mints people (formerly Welch's Junior Mints), a candy product division of the National Biscuit Company, have been carrying variations on elephant jokes on their packages for some time now. For example, "elephant laugh" # 10: "What pet is the hardest to lose?" "A sticky elephant." Or "tiger tales" # 12: "Why do tigers eyes shine in the dark?" "So they can see their dinner."

The I.U. Folklore Library has just drawn up plans for the computerization of its collection (which is soon to be housed in a new location). The plan "is to store necessary information about each book in the collection on magnetic tape by the use of a computer, so that 1.) accurate catalogues by author, title, subject and call number can be periodically printed out and 2.) bibliographies on any particular subject can be provided for users with legitimate requests." If funds are made available to carry through on this project, an already existing computer language (a "canned program"), Infol, developed by the Control Data Corporation, would be used.

The "Kennedy is alive" legend seems to have peaked and waned. The National Enquirer of May 18, 1969 (p. 32) carried the story of a vociferous denial by Truman Capote that he had anything to do with the "hoax" of claiming that J.F.K. is alive. A letter, several hundred thousand copies of which were apparently mailed around the country, stating that Kennedy was not killed in Dallas had been attributed to Capote. The Enquirer story notes several other mass media sources by whom the story was disseminated, including the Milwaukee Metro News and several radio stations. The story apparently has international circulation. C. Richard

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